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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT,
PLOT 1,
CHURCH WALK,
HOLBEACH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HCWK02)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

EVENT LI 4396 SOURCE LI8993 LI8994

PRN 20557 - Post medieval

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT,
PLOT 1,
CHURCH WALK,
HOLBEACH,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HCWK02)**

Work Undertaken For
Mr B McEwan

Report Compiled by
Steve Thomson BSc (Hons)

April 2003

National Grid Reference: TF 3590 2467
City and County Museum Accession No: 2002.194
Planning Application No. H09/1300/00



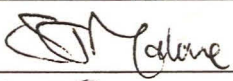
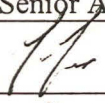
A.P.S. Report No. 1/03



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Holbeach, Church Walk (Plot 1) HCWK02

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with residential development on land at Plot 1, Church Walk, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, as the site is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the core of the medieval settlement.

The investigation identified post-medieval remains indicating occupation of the period in proximity to the site. Residual medieval pottery recovered from the subsoil, probably part of a manuring scatter, suggests agricultural use of the land at that time.

A flint flake, of Neolithic date, was the earliest artefact recovered, though this is likely to be imported into the area.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as, 'a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

A planning application, H09/1300/00, for residential development on land at Church Walk, Holbeach, was submitted to South Holland District Council. Permission was granted subject to a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief.

Archaeological Project Services (APS) was commissioned by Mr McEwan to undertake

the watching brief. The work took place on the 18th and 19th September 2002, in accordance with a specification designed by APS (Appendix 1) and approved by the Senior Built Environment Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Holbeach is situated 11km east of Spalding and 20km south of Boston, in the civil parish of Holbeach, South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The development site is located on the west side of Church Walk, south of All Saints church and is centred on National Grid Reference TF 3590 2467 (Fig. 2).

The site and surrounding area is on a slight slope downwards towards the south and lies at approximately 4m OD.

The town is located on soils of the Romney Series, generally coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous soils developed on roddons and reclaimed marshland (Robson 1990, 26). South of the town are Wisbech Series, calcareous alluvial gley soils (*ibid.* 28). These soils overlie a drift geology of marine alluvium (generally sandy silt, sand and clay) which in turn seals a solid geology of Upper Jurassic clays (BGS 1992).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Evidence of prehistoric activity in Holbeach is scarce as the prehistoric land surface is believed to lie beneath several metres of marine alluvium.

However, archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day are known. Finds of Romano-British pottery are recorded at two locations c. 1km south of the town. These finds have

Archaeological Project Services

been made at depth (c. 1m below the ground surface) and indicate that the Roman land surface is buried.

Holbeach is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and is referred to variably as *Holebech*, *Holobec* and *Holebech*. The name is likely to derive from the Old English *hol*, 'hollow' and *bæc*, 'a back'. Holbeach has a raised site and the name may mean 'the concave ridge', giving a topographical derivation to the place-name (Cameron 1998, 64).

At the time of the Domesday Survey the town was divided between the King, Crowland Abbey, Count Alan and Guy of Craon (Foster and Longley 1976).

The town was a prosperous market centre in the medieval period. This wealth was partly derived from nearby salt-making that took place north of Holbeach between the 12th and 15th centuries.

The only extant structural feature of the medieval period is All Saints' parish church which was largely built in the 14th century by the then Bishop of Lincoln. This replaced an earlier church, first referred to in AD 1177 (Macdonald 1890, 19). Besides the church, Holbeach also had a number of chapels, the location of which are unknown, although the Chapel of St. Peter is believed to lie in the vicinity of the former railway station.

Archaeological evaluation of land at Park Road, within the presumed core of the medieval town, identified an early medieval ditch (Herbert 1999). A subsequent watching brief only encountered modern material (Cope-Faulkner 2000).

The secondary school is built upon the site of Stukeley House, a post-medieval house

that once possibly retained a medieval core (Cope-Faulkner 1997, 8).

A watching brief undertaken on the High Street identified three post-medieval brick structures of 17th century or later date (Snee 2000).

Investigations on the adjacent plot identified a possible medieval refuse pit, suggesting occupation of the period (Thomson 2003).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief, as outlined in the specification (Appendix 1), was to record and interpret archaeological features exposed during the ground disturbance and, where present, determine their form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches for a dwelling and garage were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.65m wide toothed blade to depths of up to 1.85m below the present ground surface. Following excavation, the sections of the trenches were inspected to identify archaeological deposits and selectively cleaned and rendered vertical. Archaeological deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material.

The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts with

interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practise.

Finds recovered from the watching brief were examined and a date assigned where possible. Records of the deposits and features identified were also examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating where appropriate.

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers shown in bold and in black are the context numbers assigned in the field.

5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis two phases were recognised:

- 5.1 Phase 1 – Alluvial deposits
- 5.2 Phase 2 - Modern or recent deposits

5.1 Phase 1 - Alluvial deposits

The earliest recorded deposit comprised a mid-yellowish brown silt (**118**) identified as alluvium.

5.2 Phase 2 - Modern or recent deposits

Located in the south of the foundation trenches and cutting the alluvium was a linear feature (**103**) (Fig. 4, Fig.5 - Section 5) identified as a ditch. A brownish grey clayey silt formed the single fill of the ditch. A continuation of the ditch (**111**) was

recorded to the west and measured 2.3m wide and 1.6m deep (Fig. 5 - Section 4). Here, the ditch contained a primary fill of black silt (**114**) overlain by a mid-greyish brown silt (**113**), sealed by a black silt and charcoal (**112**). Pottery, glass and ceramic building material dating to the 19th - 20th centuries was recovered from (**113**).

Located in the west-central area of the trenches was a partially exposed pit (**104**) measuring 2.25m north-south, 0.85m east-west and 0.76m deep (Fig.5 - Section 2). The pit was filled with a dark grey silt (**106**) sealed by a dark brown clayey silt (**105**). Pottery and ceramic building material of 19th - 20th century date was recovered from (**105**).

Adjacent to (**104**) was a further pit (**107**) measuring 2.51m east-west, 0.7m north-south and 1.45m deep (Fig. 5 - Section 3). A dark grey silt (**110**) formed the primary fill of the pit. This was sealed by a mid-grey clayey silt (**109**) and a black silt containing frequent charcoal (**108**). Pottery, brick and glass of 19th - 20th century date was recovered from (**110**).

Sealing the Phase 2 features was a dark grey silt subsoil (**117**) from which pottery, glass, stone, clay pipe and animal bone was recovered. Overlying the subsoil was a dark greyish brown silt topsoil (**116**). Pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone was recovered from the topsoil.

The most recent feature encountered was a modern drain cut (**100**) (Fig. 5 - Section 1) filled with a dark brown silt (**101**) and a ceramic storm drain pipe (**102**).

6. DISCUSSION

Phase 1 was represented by an alluvial deposit exposed throughout the foundation trenches. This is in keeping with sediments previously identified in the area.

Phase 2 comprised a ditch, pits and a modern drain. The ditch is likely to represent a former field boundary which also served for drainage. The two recorded pits probably represent disposal of refuse and would suggest occupation in proximity to the development area. Artefacts recovered from the site would also suggest occupation in the later post-medieval period.

Medieval pottery of 13th - 14th century date was recovered from the subsoil and is likely to have been part of a manuring scatter, suggesting agricultural use of the land during this period.

The earliest artefact recovered was a flint flake of Neolithic date, though this is likely to have been imported into the area.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on land at Plot 1, Church Walk, Holbeach, as the site lies close to the core of the medieval settlement.

Post-medieval remains, in the form of a ditch, pits and a drain, indicate occupation in proximity to the development area during this period.

No medieval features were evidenced and it is likely that the site existed as agricultural land during this period.

The nature of the soils exposed suggests that paleo-environmental indicators (seeds,

pollens, wood *etc.*) would be unlikely to survive other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr B McEwan, who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone, who jointly edited this report with Tom Lane.

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10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

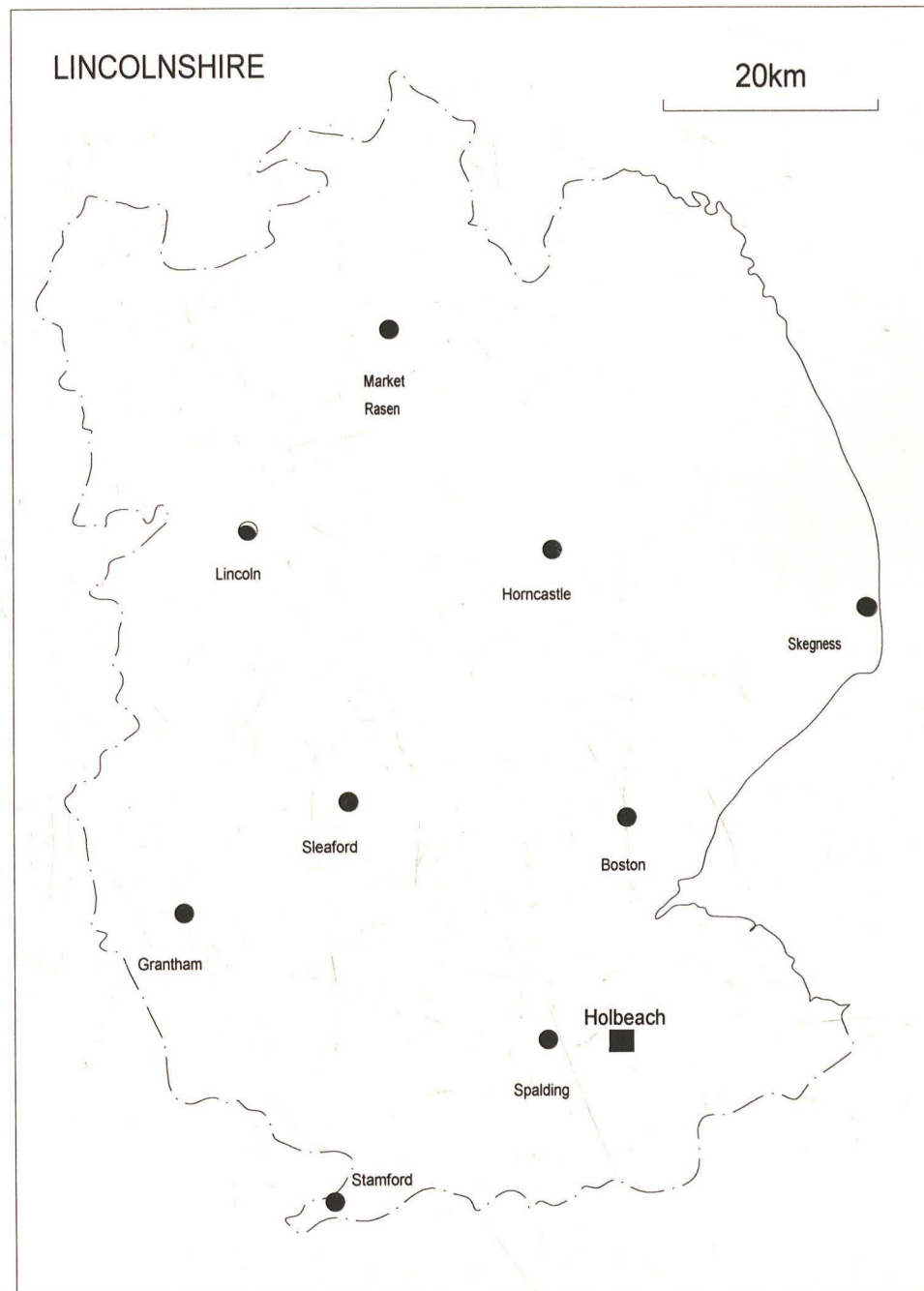
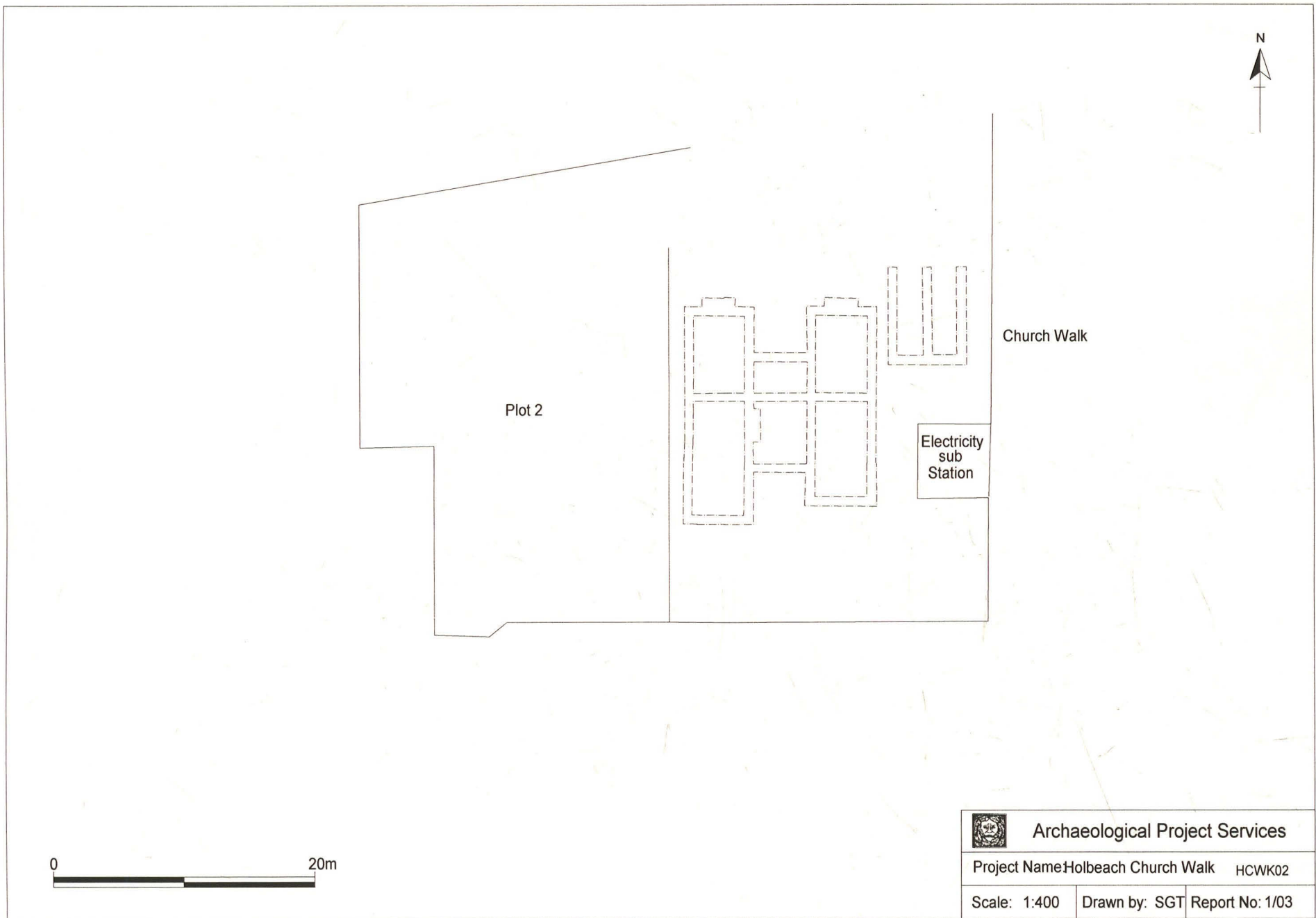


Figure 1 General Location Plan



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Figure 2 Site location plan




 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Holbeach Church Walk HCWK02		
Scale: 1:400	Drawn by: SGT	Report No: 1/03

Figure 3 - Detailed site plan

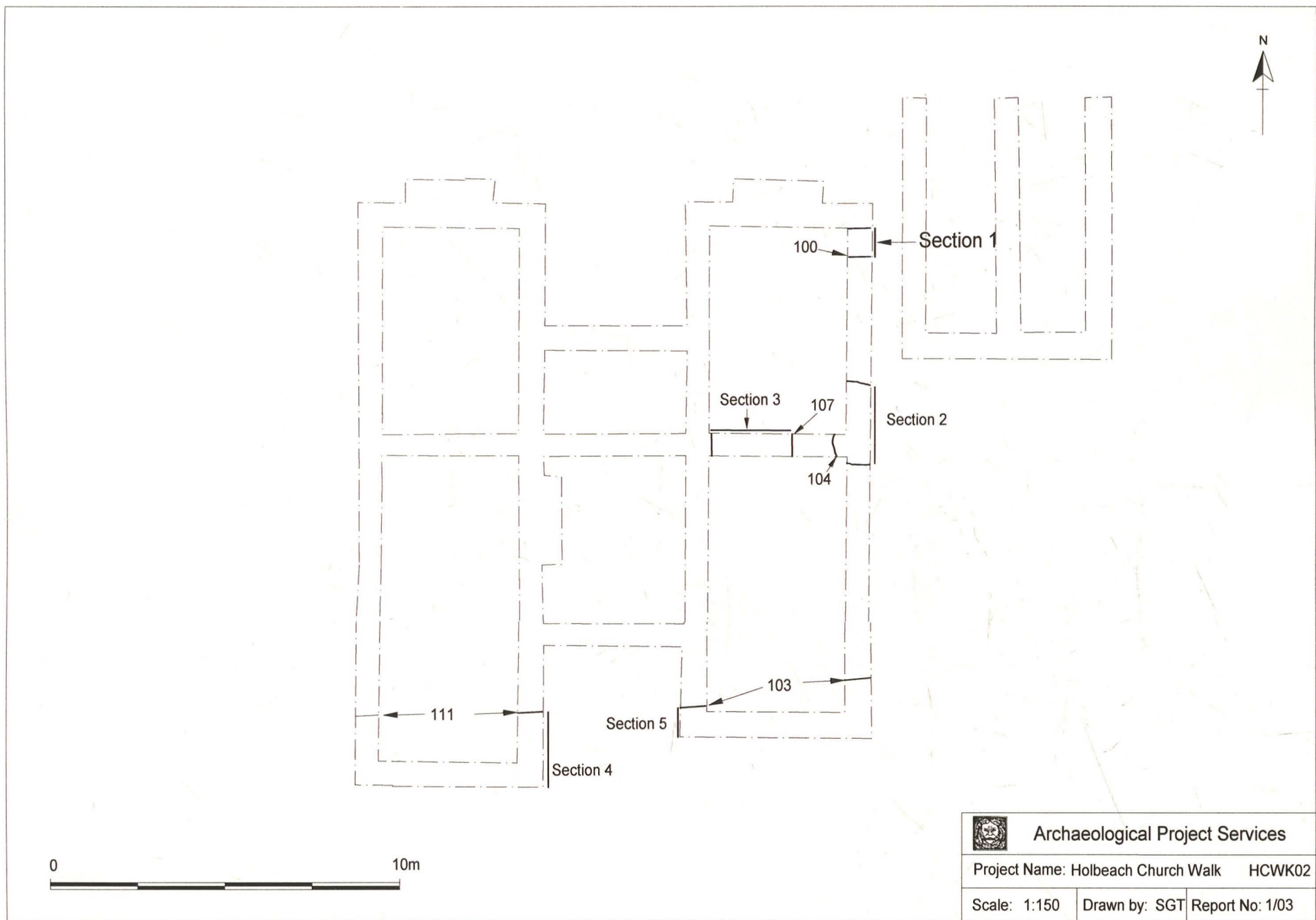
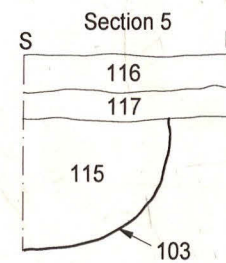
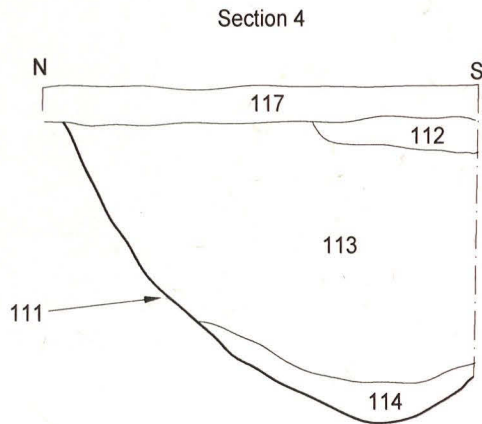
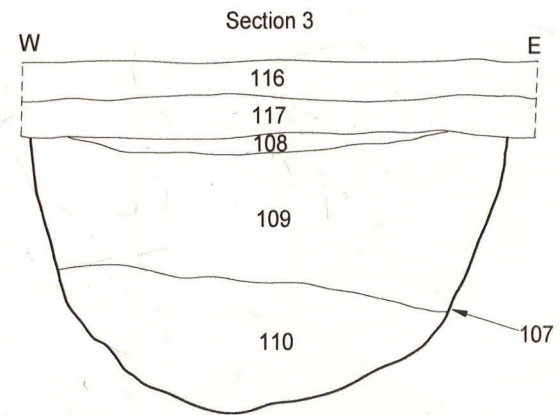
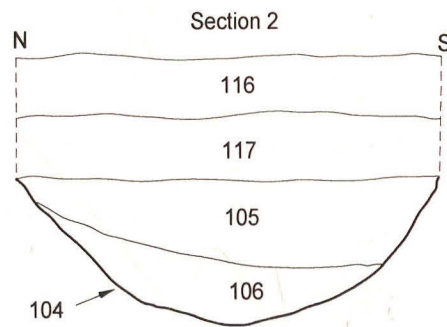
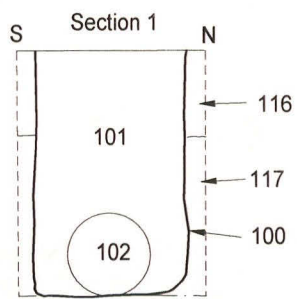


Figure 4 - Foundation plan showing archaeological features and section locations




		Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Holbeach Church Walk		HCWK02	
Scale: 1:40	Drawn by: SGT	Report No: 1/03	

Figure 5 - Section drawings



Plate 1 General view of the development area, looking north



Plate 2 General view, 107, looking south

Appendix 1

**LAND AT
CHURCH WALK
HOLBEACH
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**SPECIFICATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**PREPARED FOR
MR McEWAN**

**BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Organisation No. 21**

APRIL 2002

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during residential development on land at Church Walk, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of archaeological potential, close to All Saints church and the core of the medieval settlement.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during construction of two bungalows with detached garages on land at Church Walk, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 3590 2467.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Holbeach is situated 20km south of Boston in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire. The site lies in the centre of the town, south of All Saints' Church and the Vicarage between Church Street and Church Walk, centred on National Grid Reference TF 3590 2467.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (H09/1300/00) was submitted to South Holland District Council for residential development on the site. Permission is subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching-brief during groundworks associated with the development.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 The site and surrounding area is on a very slight slope down to the south and lies at approximately 4m OD. Holbeach is located on soils of the Romney series, generally coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous soils, developed on roddons and reclaimed marshland (Robson 1990, 26). South of the town are the Wisbech Series, calcareous alluvial gley soils (ibid. 28). These soils overlie a drift geology of marine alluvium (generally sandy silt, sand and clay) which in turn seals a solid geology of Upper Jurassic clays (BGS 1992).

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity in the Holbeach region is scarce. The prehistoric land surface lies several metres below a series of later flood deposits.

- 6.2 The marshland stabilised during the Romano-British period, allowing agricultural and salt making activities to commence. Finds of Romano-British pottery are recorded from two locations south of Holbeach town centre. These finds were made at a depth of *c.* 1m and indicates that the Roman land surface is buried.
- 6.3 Holbeach is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it is referred to variably as *Holebech, Holeben, Holobech* and *Holobec*. At the time of the Domesday Book the town was divided between the King, Crowland Abbey, Count Alan and Guy of Craon. The site is located near the medieval core of the village and close to All Saints' Church.

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
- 7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- 7.1.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

- 8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

- Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
- groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.4 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
- Description of the topography of the site.
- Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching

brief findings.

- Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; the South Holland District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be presented as a condensed article to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the

archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - G Taylor, APS in consultation with H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17 INSURANCES

- 17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.
- 18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

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Specification: Version 1, 19 April 2002

Appendix 2
Context Summary

Context No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
100	1	Linear cut, 0.8m wide x 1.3m deep, vertical sides, flat base	Modern drain cut
101	1	Firm, dark brown silt containing occasional gravel and ceramic building material fragments	Fill of 100
102	1	Storm drain pipe	Drain pipe
103	5	linear cut, >5.5m long x 2.01m wide x 0.8m deep, steep sides, concave base E-W orientation	Ditch
104	2	Partially exposed cut, 2.25m N-S x 0.85m E-W x 0.76m deep, steep sides concave base	Pit
105	2	Firm, dark brown clayey silt containing occasional charcoal and ceramic building material fragments and sub-rounded gravel	Fill of 104
106	2	Loose, dark grey silt containing occasional charcoal and ceramic building material fragments and gravel	Primary fill of 104
107	3	Partially exposed cut, 2.51m E-W x 0.7m N-S x 1.45m deep, steeply sloping sides, concave base	Pit
108	3	Loose, black charcoal and silt	Fill of 107
109	3	Firm, mid-grey clayey silt containing moderate ceramic building material fragments and occasional charcoal fragments	Fill of 107
110	3	Loose, dark grey silt containing occasional charcoal and ceramic building material fragments	Fill of 107
111	4	Linear cut, >5.5m E-W x 2.3m wide x 1.6m deep, steeply sloping sides 'v' shaped profile	Ditch
112	4	Loose, black silt and charcoal	Fill of 111
113	4	Loose, mid-greyish brown silt containing occasional ceramic building material fragments	Fill of 111
114	4	Loose, black silt, high organic content	Primary fill of 111
115	5	Loose, brownish grey clayey silt, containing occasional charcoal and ceramic building material fragments and gravel	Primary fill of 103
116	1,2,3,4,5	Loose, dark greyish brown silt containing occasional ceramic building material fragments and gravel, 0.1-0.3m thick	Topsoil
117	2,3,5	Loose, dark grey silt, containing occasional charcoal and ceramic building material fragments, 0.1-0.3m thick	Subsoil
118	-	Mid-yellowish brown silt, >0.2m thick	Alluvial deposit

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

*by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Rachael Hall,
Hilary Healey, Tom Lane and Gary Taylor*

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. A total of 23 fragments of pottery weighing 753g was recovered from 5 separate contexts. In addition to the pottery, a moderate quantity of other artefacts, brick/tile, glass and clay pipe, comprising 18 items weighing a total of 2845g, was retrieved. Faunal remains were also recovered.

Provenance

The material was recovered from topsoil (116), subsoil (117) pit fills (105, 110) and a ditch fill (113). Most of the pottery was probably made in Staffordshire, though the earlier pieces were manufactured in moderate proximity to Holbeach, at Grimston in Norfolk, 35km to the east, and in the Toynton All Saints/Old Bolingbroke area, 40km to the north of Holbeach.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
116	UGRE	Unglazed red earthenware, plant pot, 19 th -20 th century	3	65	19 th -20 th century
	STMO	Staffordshire mottled ware, 18 th century	1	4	
	BL	Blackware, 17 th century	1	2	
	NOTS	Nottingham salt-glazed stoneware, 18 th century	1	12	
117	LSTON	Stoneware flagon, 19 th -early 20 th century	2(link)	221	19 th -early 20 th century
	LPM	Mocha ware, 19 th century	2	116	
	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century	3	17	
	PEARL	Pearlware, sponged decoration, 19 th century	1	44	
	WHITE	White glazed tableware, 19 th -early 20 th century	1	2	
	MP	Midlands Purple-type ware, 17 th century	1	18	
	TB	Toynton/Bolingbroke-type ware, abraded, 15 th -17 th century	1	64	
	GRIM	Grimston ware, jug decorated with applied blobs of iron-rich clay, 13 th -14 th century	1	5	
105	UGRE	Unglazed red earthenware, plant pot	2(link)	99	19 th -20 th century
110	UGRE	Unglazed red earthenware, plant pot	1	21	19 th -20 th century
113	BL	Red painted black glazed earthenware pancheon, 18 th century	1	59	19 th century

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century	1	4	

The large quantity of pottery is mostly of 18th-20th century date with a small amount of 17th century material and a single medieval sherd. This suggests that occupation of the site probably commenced in the 18th century, though there was some residual 17th century material present. The single medieval sherd could have entered the area in manuring scatter.

Fragments of plant pots are relatively abundant, providing over one-quarter of the pottery recovered (6 out of the total 23 sherds, or 26%). This perhaps suggests that the area functioned as a garden or plant nursery in the recent past.

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
116	CBM	Machine-made brick, late 19 th -20 th century	1	127	19 th -20 th century
	CBM	Pantile, post-medieval	2	71	
117	Glass		1	20	19 th century
	Stone	Roofing slate, late post-medieval	2	11	
	Stone	Flint, probable prehistoric flake	1	1	
	Clay pipe	Stem, bore 4/64", 19 th century	1	1	
	Clay pipe	Stem, bore 7/64", 17 th century	1	3	
105	CBM	Machine-made frogged brick	1	2340	Late 19 th -20 th century
110	CBM	Handmade brick, 1 with mortar adhering, post-medieval	3	59	
	Glass	thick	1	33	
	Glass	thin	1	8	
113	CBM	Salt glazed drain pipe, 19 th -20 th century	1	159	19 th -20 th century
	CBM	Handmade brick, post-medieval	1	9	
	Glass		1	3	

A small flint flake was recovered from (002). This is probably prehistoric but, as such, is almost certainly imported to the site as the prehistoric land surface in the Holbeach area is deeply buried by later flood silts.

Table 2: Faunal Remains

Context	Species	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Comments
116	deer oyster	radius shell	1	25	54mm across
			1	11	
117	cattle sized oyster	pelvis	1	65	chalky 108mm across
		cattle sized	1	91	
		horse	1	18	
		oyster	1	102	

Condition

All the material is in good condition and present no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

There have been previous archaeological investigations at Holbeach, including in close proximity to the current site, that are the subjects of reports. Additionally, there has been reported study of the archaeological and historical evidence for the town and its vicinity. Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

Although a fairly large collection of artefacts was recovered, almost all it is of early modern date. Consequently, the assemblage is of limited local potential and significance, though it does indicate probable occupation of the site from the 18th century onwards. A very few medieval to early post-medieval artefacts were collected but the very limited numbers involved suggest that these may have entered the area in manuring scatter. These artefacts are therefore also of limited local potential, although this interpretation would indicate that the area was agricultural land during the medieval-early post-medieval periods.

References

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

- Context** An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g.* (004).
- Cut** A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc.* Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original cut is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
- Fill** Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the cut are referred to as its fill(s).
- Layer** A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
- Medieval** The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
- Natural** Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
- Post-medieval** The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

19	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
9	Drawing sheets
1	Plan register
1	Section register
2	Daily record sheets
1	Box of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Museum Accession Number: 2002.194

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HCWK 02

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology, nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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